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Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01

AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 SCI-06 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /159 W
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O P 141110Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4183
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 13955

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, CB
SUBJECT: POL CRISIS

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 13487 (B) SINGAPORE 4809

1. THE CIVILIAN POL SITUATION IN CAMBODIA IS FAST APPROACHING MIDNIGHT. UNLESS ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS OF POL ARE PROVIDED TO CAMBODIA BY EARLY JANUARY IN ADDITION TO THOSE AMOUNTS ALREADY SCHEDULED, SUPPLIES OF MOST IMPORTANT POL PRODUCTS WILL BE EXHAUSTED BY 10 JANUARY AND AT LEAST TWO PRODUCTS, KEROSENE AND AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL, WILL BE EXHAUSTED PRIOR TO THE END OF DECEMBER.

2. WE HAVE ONLY VAGUE ASSURANCES THAT AS MUCH AS 25,000 CM OF PRESENT CONTRACT COMMITMENTS CAN BE PROVIDED TO CAMBODIA BETWEEN THE END OF DECEMBER AND 1 FEBRUARY. MAXIMUM PRESSURE
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WILL HAVE TO BE APPLIED IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT ENOUGH OF

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THESE AMOUNTS BE PROVIDED IN VERY EARLY JANUARY IN ORDER TO CONTINUE CONSUMPTION OF MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTS. LOOKING ONLY SLIGHTLY AHEAD, HOWEVER, WE WILL REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY 55,000 CM TO BE DELIVERED BY THE END OF JANUARY IF THE TARGET AMOUNTS ORIGINALLY SET FOR 1 JANUARY ARE TO BE MET. WE THEREFORE HAVE A SHORTFALL OF AT LEAST 30,000 CM THAT WILL HAVE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IF THESE TARGETS ARE TO BE REALIZED. WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PRESSURE THE GKR INTO INSTITUTING FULL FLEDGED RATIONING AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. NONETHELESS, EVEN IF A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF RATIONING WERE INSTITUTED TODAY, THE SHORTFALL OF REQUIREMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE GUILDUP WOULD BE ONLY REDUCED BY SOME 10,000 CM. THIS PRESUMES THAT RATIONING WOULD BE FULLY EFFECTIVE.

3. THE PROBLEM THEREFORE IS TWOFOLD: FIRST, TO ENSURE THAT MAJOR OIL COMPANIES, I.E., CALTEX, SHELL, AND SUMMIT, MEET THEIR EXISTING CONTRACTS. IN VIEW OF THE PAST SHORTFALLS THAT HAVE OCCURRED WITH CONTRACTING, WE CAN EXPECT FURTHER DEFAULTING. SECOND AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR POL WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND IN ORDER TO REACH TARGETS BY 1 FEBRUARY.

4. WE SEE THE FOLLOWING WASHINGTON ACTIONS AS ESSENTIAL:

A. IN VIEW PARTICULARLY OF THE LESS THAN ENCOURAGING DISCOURAGING REPORT IN REF. B ON GKR TALKS IN SINGAPORE WITH SHELL, URGENCY OF EITHER CALTEX OR EXXON HOME OFFICES AGREEING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PRODUCT IS MORE ACUTE THAN EVER. REQUEST WASHINGTON PURSUE FURTHER WITH OIL COMPANIES AND ADVISE.

B. PER REF. B, SINGAPORE ADVISED THAT DIRECTOR OF TELA KHMER IS APPROACHING INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT FOR POSSIBLE PROCUREMENT OF REFINED POL PRODUCTS AND CRUDE. THIS IS PROBABLY THE ONLY SUBSTANTIAL SOURCE OF POL THAT CAN BE MADE READILY AVAILABLE AND, THEREFORE, REQUEST WASHINGTON PUT MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON GOI TO MEET THESE REQUESTS.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLIES, PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM13955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731224/aaaaaroa.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) PHNOM PENH 13487 (B) SINGAPORE 4, 809
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POL CRISIS
TAGS: ENRG, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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